Education to children

3795. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 3 crores 20 lacs children in the age group of 6 years to 10 years are not going to school;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Out of a child population of 11.83 crore in the age-group 6–11 years projected by the Registrar General of India for the year 2001, 11.38 crore children were enrolled in schools as on 30th Sept. 2000, as reported in the Selected Educational Statistics 2000-2001 brought out by this Ministry. The reasons for non-enrolment of school children include habitations not having facilities for education, socio-economic factors preventing children from going to schools and children dropping out of school after getting enrolled.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to ensure Universalisation of Elementary Education. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 to make elementary education a Fundamental Right has been enacted. The Government has also launched the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as a National Programme to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education in a Mission mode in partnership with States. This programme focuses, in particular, on the educational needs of girls, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, urban deprived children and other children in difficult circumstances.

Tax exemption to corporates for contribution in SSA

3796. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit hundred per cent tax exemption to corporates who contribute funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether such inflows will make up for the large deficit in the budget for SSA projects; and

(c) whether such tax exemption is aimed at spurring corporates towards commitment to social causes rather than putting the onus of elementary education on the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) In order to promote people's involvement and to raise additional resources for school-based interventions, this Ministry had suggested to the Ministry of Finance for inclusion in the Budget for the year 2003-2004, a proposal that contributions to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies for initiatives in elementary education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, be given exemption from income-tax.

This proposal was not included in the Budget for the current financial year.

Implication of compulsory education

3797. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any policy decision to ensure the implication of compulsory education upto the age group of 14 years;

(b) the achievement attained so far in comparison to the target estimated; and

(c) details of financial assistance Central Government have extended to the States in this regard during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 has been enacted by which free and compulsory Education has become a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group 6—14. The Government has also launched the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as a National Programme to achieve the goal of Universalisation of